

Message Text

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15

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 SEC-01 PPT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03

JUSE-00 EUR-12 NSC-05 /056 W
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R 252317Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY REPLIES TO NEWSPAPER QUERIES ABOUT VESCO

1. IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM SAN JOSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER (SAN JOSE NEWS) EMBASSY PRE-
PARED FOLLOWING ANSWERS ON APRIL 24:

QUOTE

Q. WAS THE EMBASSY AWARE PRIOR TO SATURDAY'S LETTER OF
THE FACT THAT VESCO CLAIMS TO NO LONGER BE A U.S. CITIZEN?

A. YES, WE ARE AWARE THAT HE MAKES THAT CLAIM.

Q. IF SO, DID HE FORMALLY RENOUNCE HIS CITIZENSHIP TO A
U.S. OFFICIAL, AND WHEN AND WHERE?

A. HE DID NOT RENOUNCE HERE AND HAS NOT DONE SO TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE ELSEWHERE.

Q. IF HE DID NOT, DOES THE U.S. CONSIDER HIM TO STILL BE
A U.S. CITIZEN?

A. YES.

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Q. DID HE TURN IN HIS U.S. PASSPORT TO AN EMBASSY OR
CONSULAR OFFICIAL?

A. NOT HERE.

Q. DOES THE EMBASSY KNOW WHAT NATION VESCO CONSIDERS
HIMSELF TO BE A CITIZEN OF?

A. NO.

Q. DOES THE FACT THAT HE HAS RENOUNCED HIS CITIZENSHIP
CHANGE THE U.S. INTEREST IN HIM AS FAR AS LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
ARE CONCERNED?

A. GIVEN OUR PREVIOUS ANSWERS THIS IS A HYPOTHETICAL
QUESTION AND THEREFORE NOT PERTINENT.

Q. WHAT DOES A U.S. CITIZEN HAVE TO DO TO RENOUNCE HIS
CITIZENSHIP?

A. IF ABROAD, A CITIZEN MUST APPEAR BEFORE A U.S. CONSULAR
OFFICIAL.

Q. DOES THE TAKING OF CITIZENSHIP OF ANOTHER NATION AUTO-
MATICALLY END HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP?

A. THIS IS A COMPLEX MATTER AND THE EFFECTS WOULD DEPEND
ON THE FACTS OF EACH CASE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF VESCO'S FAMILY ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE A
DIFFERENT CITIZENSHIP NOW?

A. WE DON'T KNOW.

ANSWERS FOR ATTRIBUTION TO "EMBASSY SPOKESMAN" END QUOTE.

2. ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S.: VESCO STILL CITIZEN" WHICH
CAME OUT APRIL 25 INCLUDED MOST ANSWERS EMBASSY PROVIDED.
ARTICLE INCLUDED A STATEMENT FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO SAME
U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN THAT "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
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WILL CONTINUE ITS FIGHT FOR THE FINANCIER'S
EXTRADITION....." INSTEAD OF RUNNING OUR ANSWER
TO SIXTH QUESTION ABOVE, ARTICLE STATED THAT "EMBASSY

OFFICIALS HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT VESCO WOULD STILL
BE SOUGHT FOR TRIAL IN THE U.S. EVEN IF HE RENOUNCED
HIS CITIZENSHIP, SINCE PERSONS OF FOREIGN NATIONALITY
CAN BE TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED IN U.S. COURTS".

TODMAN

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